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FROM: Jeffrey J. Chapp

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COMMENTS:

Re: Application No. 10/761,879

Attached please find an Interview Request Form and proposed draft claim amendments for your consideration. Thank you for your assistance.

NOTICE

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Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form

Application No.: 10/761,879 First Named Applicant: NAFEA BISHARA
 Examiner: HICHAM FOUD Art Unit: 2419 Status of Application: NON-FINAL

Tentative Participants:

(1) JEFF CHAPP (2) HICHAM FOUD
 (3) _____ (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: 8-13-09 Proposed Time: 1:00 (AM/PM) (PM)

Type of Interview Requested:

(1) ☐ Telephonic (2) ☒ Personal (3) ☐ Video Conference

Exhibit To Be Shown or Demonstrated: ☐ YES ☒ NO

If yes, provide brief description: _____

Issues To Be Discussed

Issues (Rej., Obj., etc)	Claims/ Fig. #s	Prior Art	Discussed	Agreed	Not Agreed
(1) <u>101</u>	<u>66-84</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(2) <u>112 (1st PARA)</u>	<u>1-84</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(3) <u>112 (2nd PARA)</u>	<u>1-84</u>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
(4) <u>CLAIM OBJECTION 24-46</u>	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
[] Continuation Sheet Attached					
(5) <u>112 (3rd PARA)</u>	<u>1, 24, 47, 68</u>	_____	_____	_____	_____

Brief Description of Arguments to be Presented:

DISCUSS PROPOSED CLAIM AMENDMENTS AND ARGUMENTS WITH
RESPECT TO ABOVE OBJECTIONS + REJECTIONS.

DISCUSS ANY SUGGESTIONS THE EXAMINER MAY HAVE IN
THIS REGARD

An interview was conducted on the above-identified application on _____.

NOTE: This form should be completed by applicant and submitted to the examiner in advance of the interview (see MPEP § 713.01).

This application will not be delayed from issue because of applicant's failure to submit a written record of this interview. Therefore, applicant is advised to file a statement of the substance of this interview (37 CFR 1.133(b)) as soon as possible.

 Applicant's Representative Signature

 Examiner/SPE Signature

JEFFREY J. CHAPP
 Typed/Printed Name of Applicant or Representative

50,579
 Registration Number, if applicable

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.133. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 21 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of network ports;
 - a central processing unit (CPU) interface; and
 - a controller to
 - send, to the CPU interface, a request to approve an association between one of the plurality of network ports and a source media access control (MAC) address of a packet received on the one of the plurality of network ports when no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface, and
 - ~~send, to the CPU interface, the request to approve the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address~~ when an approval for an association between the source MAC address and a different one of the plurality of network ports has been received from the CPU interface.

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2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller ~~is further to determine~~further determines whether an association exists between ~~any of the~~one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising[[:]] a memory to store a forwarding database, ~~and,~~
wherein the controller searches a forwarding database for the source MAC address to determine~~when determining~~ whether an association exists between ~~any of the~~one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, ~~the controller is further to search a forwarding database for the source MAC address.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller ~~is further to determine~~further determines whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface.

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5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the controller further determines whether an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, ~~to determine when determining~~ whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface, ~~the controller is further to determine whether an unapproved association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address exists.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the controller determine whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, ~~to determine when determining~~ whether the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, ~~the controller is further:~~
~~to determine whether the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address exists,~~ and

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wherein the controller determines whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved when the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, ~~to determine whether the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address is approved.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising[[:]] a memory to store a forwarding database, ~~and,~~

wherein the controller further searches the forwarding database for an entry comprising the source MAC address when determining, ~~to determine whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, the controller is further to search the forwarding database for an entry comprising the source MAC address.~~

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8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the controller further determines whether an approval flag is set for the entry comprising the source MAC address when determining, ~~to determine~~ whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved, ~~the controller is further to determine whether an approval flag is set for the entry comprising the source MAC address.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the controller ~~is further to create~~ further creates an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein when creating, ~~to create~~ the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, ~~the controller is further:~~

~~to create~~ creates the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~to mark~~ indicates that the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved.

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11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising~~[[:]]~~ a memory to store a forwarding database ~~and,~~

wherein the controller further creates an entry in the forwarding database when ~~, to create~~creating the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address ~~comprises, and the controller is further to create an entry in the forwarding database,~~

wherein the entry identifying ~~identifies~~ the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the controller further sets an approval flag in the forwarding database for the entry, ~~to mark~~ when indicating that the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved, ~~the controller is further to set an approval flag in the forwarding database for the entry.~~

13. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller ~~[[is]]~~ further:

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~~to receiver~~receives, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~to clear~~clears the approval flag for the entry.

14. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the controller ~~[[is]]~~ further:

~~to receiver~~receives, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~to delete~~deletes the entry.

15. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller ~~[[is]]~~ further:

~~to receiver~~receives, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

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~~to approve~~approves the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the controller ~~[[is]]~~ further:

~~to receiving~~receives, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~to delete~~deletes the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the packet further comprises a destination MAC address, and

wherein the controller ~~[[is]]~~ further:

~~to process~~processes the packet according to the destination MAC address when an association between the destination MAC address and a further one of the plurality of network ports exists and the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has been approved; ~~[[and]]~~

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~~to process~~processes the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when no association between the destination MAC address and ~~any of the~~one of the plurality of network ports exists; and

~~to process~~processes the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports exists but the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has not been approved.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the controller further causes the further one of the plurality of network ports to transmit the packet, ~~to process~~ when processing the packet according to the destination MAC address, ~~the controller is further to cause the further one of the network ports to transmit the packet.~~

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19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the controller further causes all of the plurality of network ports but the one of the plurality of network ports to transmit the packet to processwhen processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address, ~~the controller is further to cause all of the network ports but the one of the network ports to transmit the packet.~~

20. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the apparatus of claim 1.

21. (Original) A network switch comprising the apparatus of claim 1.

22. (Original) The network switch of claim 21, wherein the network switch is an Ethernet network switch.

23. (Currently Amended) The network switch of claim 21, further comprising~~[[:]]~~ a CPU ~~in communication~~that communicates with the CPU interface.

24. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a plurality of network ~~port means~~ports;

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central processing unit (CPU) interface means for communicating with a CPU; and

controller means for sending, to the CPU interface means, a request to approve an association between one of the plurality of network port means and a source media access control (MAC) address of a packet received on the one of the network port means when no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network port means and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface means, [[and]]

wherein the controller means ~~sending~~sends, to the CPU interface means, the request to ~~approve the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address~~ when an approval for an association between the source MAC address and a different one of the plurality of network port means has been received from the CPU interface means.

25. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller means ~~is further for determining~~determines whether an association exists between any ~~of the network port means~~ one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

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26. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 25, further comprising~~[[:]~~ memory means for storing a forwarding database~~;~~ and,

wherein~~,~~~~for~~ the controller means searches a forwarding database for the source MAC address when determining whether an association exists between any of the network port means~~one of the plurality of network ports~~ and the source MAC address~~, the controller means is further for searching a forwarding database for the source MAC address.~~

27. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~ determining~~determines~~ whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network port means~~ports~~ and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface means.

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28. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein, ~~for~~ the controller means determines whether an unapproved association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address exists when determining whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface means, ~~the controller means is further for determining whether an unapproved association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address exists.~~

29. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein, ~~for~~ when determining whether the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address exists, the controller means ~~is further for:~~

~~determining~~ determines whether the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address exists; and

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~~when the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address exists, determining~~
determines whether the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address is approved when the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists.

30. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 29, further comprising[[:]] memory means for storing a forwarding database; ~~and,~~

~~wherein, for~~ when determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address exists, the controller means ~~is further for searching~~ searches the forwarding database for an entry comprising the source MAC address.

31. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein, ~~for~~ when determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address is approved, the controller means ~~is further for determining~~ determines whether an approval flag is set for the entry comprising the source MAC address.

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32. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the controller means ~~is further for creating~~creates an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port~~ ports and the source MAC address.

33. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein, ~~for~~ when creating the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port~~ meansports and the source MAC address, the controller means ~~is further for:~~

~~creating~~ creates the association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port~~ meansports and the source MAC address; and

~~marking~~ indicates the association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port~~ meansports and the source MAC address as unapproved.

34. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising ~~[[:]]~~ memory means for storing a forwarding database; ~~and,~~

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wherein, ~~for~~ when creating the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address ~~comprises~~, the controller means ~~is further for~~ creating~~creates~~ an entry in the forwarding database, ~~the entry identifying that identifies~~ the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address.

35. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein, ~~for marking~~ the controller means sets an approval flag in the forwarding database for the entry when indicating the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address as unapproved, ~~the controller means is further for setting an approval flag in the forwarding database for the entry.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~:

receiving, receives from the CPU interface means[[,]] an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address, ~~an approval of the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address; and~~

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~~clearing~~ clears the approval flag for the entry.

37. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~:

~~receiving,~~ receives from the CPU interface means [[,]] a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port means~~ ports and the source MAC address, ~~a disapproval of the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address;~~ and

~~deleting~~ deletes the entry.

38. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~:

~~receiving,~~ receives from the CPU interface means [[,]] an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ~~port means~~ ports and the source MAC address, ~~an approval of the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address;~~ and

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~~approving~~ approves the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address.

39. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~:

~~receiving~~ receives from the CPU interface[[,]] a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address, ~~a disapproval of the association between the one of the network port means and the source MAC address; and~~

~~deleting~~ deletes the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network port meansports and the source MAC address.

40. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the packet further comprises a destination MAC address, and

wherein the controller means ~~is further for~~:

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~~processing~~ processes the packet according to the destination MAC address when an association between the destination MAC address and a further one of the plurality of network port means ports exists and the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network port means ports has been approved; [[and]]

~~processing~~ processes the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when no association between the destination MAC address and ~~any of the one of the~~ plurality of network port means ports exists; and

~~processing~~ processes the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network port means ports exists but the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network port means ports has not been approved.

41. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, ~~for the controller means causes the further one of the plurality of network ports to transmit the packet when processing the packet according to the destination MAC address, the controller means is further for causing the further one of the network port means to transmit the packet.~~

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42. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 40, wherein, ~~for the controller means causes all of the plurality of network ports but the one of the plurality of network ports to transmit the packet when processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address, the controller means is further for causing all of the network port means but the one of the network port means to transmit the packet.~~

43. (Original) An integrated circuit comprising the apparatus of claim 24.

44. (Original) A network switch comprising the apparatus of claim 24.

45. (Original) The network switch of claim 44, wherein the network switch is an Ethernet network switch.

46. (Currently Amended) The network switch of claim 44, further comprising ~~[[:]]~~ CPU means ~~in communication for~~ communicating with the CPU interface means.

47. (Currently Amended) A method for a switch comprising a plurality of network ports and a central processing unit (CPU) interface, the method comprising:

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receiving, on one of the plurality of network ports, a packet comprising a source media access control (MAC) address;

sending, to the CPU interface, a request to approve an association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address when no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface; and

sending, to the CPU interface, the request to ~~approve the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address~~ when an association between the source MAC address and a different one of the plurality of network ports has been approved.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising[[:]] determining whether an association exists between ~~any of the~~ one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 48, wherein the determining of whether an association exists between ~~any of the~~ one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises[[:]] searching a forwarding database for the source MAC address.

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50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising[[:]] determining whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 50, wherein the determining of whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface comprises[[:]] determining whether an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 51, wherein the determining of whether the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists comprises:

determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists; and

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~~when the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address exists,~~ determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved when the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 52, wherein the determining of whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists comprises[[:]] searching a forwarding database for an entry comprising the source MAC address.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 53, wherein the determining of whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved comprises[[:]] determining whether an approval flag is set for the entry comprising the source MAC address.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, further comprising:

creating an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

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56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein the creating of the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises:

creating the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~marking~~ indicating the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein the creating of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises[[:]] creating an entry in a forwarding database, the entry identifying the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

58. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 57, wherein the marking ~~indicating~~ of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved comprises[[:]] setting an approval flag for the entry.

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59. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

clearing the approval flag for the entry.

60. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

deleting the entry.

61. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

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receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

approving the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

62. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, further comprising:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

deleting the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

63. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein the packet further comprises a destination MAC address, and wherein the method further comprising comprises:

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processing the packet according to the destination MAC address when an association between the destination MAC address and a further one of the plurality of network ports exists and the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has been approved; [[and]]

processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when no association between the destination MAC address and ~~any of the~~ one of the plurality of network ports exists; and

processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports exists but the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has not been approved.

64. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the processing of the packet according to the destination MAC address comprises[[:]] transmitting the packet from the further one of the plurality of network ports.

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65. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63, wherein the processing of the packet without regard to the destination MAC address comprises[[:]] transmitting the packet from all of the plurality of network ports but the one of the plurality of network ports.

66. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium that stores a computer program embodying instructions executable by a computer for a switch comprising a plurality of network ports and a central processing unit (CPU) interface, the computer program comprising instructions for:

receiving, on one of the plurality of network ports, a packet comprising a source media access control (MAC) address;

sending, to the CPU interface, a request to approve an association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address when no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface; and

sending, to the CPU interface, the request ~~to approve the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address~~ when an association between the source MAC address and a different one of the plurality of network ports has been approved.

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67. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~ readable medium of claim 66, further comprising instructions for ~~[[:]]~~ determining whether an association exists between ~~any of the one~~ of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

68. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium ~~program~~ of claim 67, wherein the determining of whether an association exists between ~~any of the one~~ of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises ~~[[:]]~~ searching a forwarding database for the source MAC address.

69. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~ readable medium of claim 66, further comprising ~~[[:]]~~ instructions for determining whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface.

70. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~ readable medium of claim 69, wherein the determining of whether no request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address has been sent to the CPU interface comprises ~~[[:]]~~ determining whether an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists.

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71. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~readable medium of claim 70, wherein the determining of whether the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists comprises:

determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists; and

determining whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved when the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists, ~~determining whether the association between the one of the network ports and the source MAC address is approved.~~

72. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~readable medium of claim 71, wherein the determining of whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address exists comprises[[:]] searching a forwarding database for an entry comprising the source MAC address.

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73. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 72, wherein the determining of whether the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address is approved comprises[[:]] determining whether an approval flag is set for the entry comprising the source MAC address.

74. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 66, further comprising[[:]] instructions for creating an unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

75. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 74, wherein the creating of the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises:

creating the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

~~marking~~-indicating the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved.

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76. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-readable~~ medium of claim 75, wherein the creating of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address comprises[[:]] creating an entry in a forwarding database, the entry identifying the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

77. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-readable~~ medium of claim 76, wherein the marking-indicating of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address as unapproved comprises[[:]] setting an approval flag for the entry.

78. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-readable~~ medium of claim 77, further comprising instructions for:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

clearing the approval flag for the entry.

79. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-readable~~ medium of claim 77, further comprising instructions for:

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receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and deleting the entry.

80. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 74, further comprising instructions for:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, an approval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

approving the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

81. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 74, further comprising instructions for:

receiving, from the CPU interface, in response to the request to approve the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address, a disapproval of the association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address; and

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deleting the unapproved association between the one of the plurality of network ports and the source MAC address.

82. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program-readable~~ medium of claim 66, wherein the packet further comprises a destination MAC address, and wherein the computer program further ~~comprising~~ comprises instructions for:

processing the packet according to the destination MAC address when an association between the destination MAC address and a further one of the plurality of network ports exists and the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has been approved; [[and]]

processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when no association between the destination MAC address and ~~any of the~~ one of the plurality of network ports exists; and

processing the packet without regard to the destination MAC address when the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports exists but the association between the destination MAC address and the further one of the plurality of network ports has not been approved.

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83. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 82, wherein the processing of the packet according to the destination MAC address comprises[[:]] transmitting the packet from the further one of the plurality of network ports.

84. (Currently Amended) The computer ~~program~~-readable medium of claim 82, wherein the processing of the packet without regard to the destination MAC address comprises[[:]] transmitting the packet from all of the plurality of network ports but the one of the plurality of network ports.

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REMARKS

Claims 1-84 are now pending in the application. Claims 1-19, 23-42 and 46-84 are amended herein. Minor amendments have been made to the claims to simply overcome the objections and rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 101 and 35 U.S.C. § 112. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the written description, claims, and drawings as originally filed. The amendments do not raise new issues or introduce new matter. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

To be provided after Interview.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 24-46 appear to be objected to for lack of a specified function for certain means terms. The Examiner appears to allege that Claim 24 lacks a specified function with respect to the term "port means". Claims 24-42 and 46 are amended herein. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these objections are requested.

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REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 66-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed subject matter is nonstatutory functional descriptive material. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 66-84 are amended herein, as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner alleges that there is not adequate support in the specification for the claimed first and second limitations directed to a controller that sends to a CPU interface a request and that sends to the CPU interface the request. The Examiner alleges that Claim 1 recites two sending operations and that performance of both operations is not supported in the specification. The Examiner alleges that the specification supports performing the first operation or the second operation, not performing the first operation and the second operation. Applicants disagree.

The Applicants submit that a single sending operation is claimed, not two. Note that the second sending limitation recites "send, to the CPU interface, the request", not "send, to

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the CPU interface, a request" or "send, to the CPU interface, another request". Thus, the second limitation refers to the same sending operation.

The use of the term "and" between the two sending limitations of Claim 1 does not mean that two sending operations are performed at the same time or that the claimed request is sent twice. The term "and" is used to state that the controller sends the request when either one of two conditions arises. Replacing the term "and" with "or" would broaden the scope of Claim 1 to a controller that sends a request when one of the two conditions exists, but not necessarily when the other one of the conditions exist.

Applicants further submit that the limitations of Claim 1 are supported in the specification of the application. In FIG. 2 and corresponding paragraphs [0018]-[0022], the application discloses the first limitation of a controller that sends a request to approve an association between a network port and a source media access control (MAC) address of a packet. The request is sent when no request to approve the association between the network port and the source MAC address has been sent to a CPU interface. This is provided by steps 204 and 212 of FIG. 2.

The application also discloses the second limitation of sending the request when an approval for an association between

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the source MAC address and a different network port has been received from the CPU interface. This is provided by steps 204, 216 and 212 of FIG. 2. Thus, a controller that performs both operations is disclosed.

Thus, the specification does support the limitations of Claim 1 as drafted. Claims 24, 47, and 66 are supported for similar reasons. Claims 2-23, 48-65 and 67-84 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 24, 47 and 66 and are supported for similar reasons.

Claims 1-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner alleges that the recitation of two sending limitations is vague and indefinite because the controller as described in the specification sends only one request per received packet, not two requests. As stated above, Claim 1 does not recite the sending of two requests. Claim 1 recites the sending of one request when one of two conditions exists.

Thus, Claim 1 is not indefinite. Claims 24, 47, and 66 are not indefinite for at least similar reasons. Claims 2-23, 48-65

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and 67-84 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 24, 47 and 66 and are not indefinite for at least similar reasons.

Claims 1, 24, 47 and 66 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps. The Examiner alleges that steps 204, 206 and 210-218 of FIG. 2 are essential. Applicants disagree.

Applicant notes that the limitations of Claim 1 are directed to steps 204, 212, 216 and 218 of FIG. 2. Steps 206, 210 and 214 of FIG. 2 are the steps not recited in Claim 1. Thus, steps 206, 210 and 214 appear to be the only steps at issue.

Nevertheless, nowhere in the application has Applicants stated that any of steps 204, 206 and/or 210-218 are essential. A claim "which fails to interrelate essential elements of the invention as defined by applicant(s) in the specification may be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph" (see MPEP § 2172.01). Applicants respectfully submit that the specification does not state that any of steps 204, 206 and 210-218 are "necessary to practice the invention". In paragraph [0018], Applicants state that the method of FIG. 2 is a "preferred" embodiment, not that the method of FIG. 2 is the only method and/or that the steps of the method must be performed.

Therefore, Claim 1 is allowable for at least the above reasons. Claims 24, 47, and 66 are allowable for at least

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similar reasons. Claims 2-23, 48-65 and 67-84 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 24, 47 and 66 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.